

SB 252

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3-7-13
SB 252

Chairman Randall
Members of the Committee

My Name is Pat Mischel - 47 Road 261 - Glendive

Our family is a member of the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District 1 in Glendive

Buffalo Rapids District 1 covers 16,253 acres and serves farms, businesses, and residents.

Included is two sub-divisions (Forrest park - 376 families) Highland park - 160 families and west glendive.

I rise to ask your committee to extensively amend or table SB 252.

SB 252 in its present form makes a bad law, even worse.

MCA 85-7-1710 has antiquated sections. Where else in Montana or US election laws, can a person not reside in the district, have another person vote for them, and vote hundreds of times. SB 252 does nothing to address these poor public policies.

One example of this is a Dickinson, ND land company who has title to 114.48 irrigated acres. Under current law this out of state company is given 1 vote for every 40 acres, which equals 3 votes. With SB 252 this out of state company will receive 114 votes.

Many of Buffalo Rapids members such as myself own 1 or less acres, have always had 1 vote and will continue under SB 252.

Montana's irrigation districts were formed to cooperate with the US government, under the federal Reclamation Laws. Every irrigation district is a public corporation for the promotion of the public welfare.

Irrigation districts are Not! Fortune 500 companies, associations, or private clubs.

Our irrigation districts receive public funds and are publicly supported.

Irrigation district members pay an annual operation and maintenance fee, collected by the county treasurer. Irrigation districts also apply for and receive millions of taxpayers dollars to help with big projects in the district. Some of these grants come from the federal and state governments such as Montana DNRC, NRCS - EWP, FEMA, and USDA -AWEP

In a previous hearing in the Senate, Senator Rosendale stated there were several Districts already using the 1 acre 1 vote policy. Mr. Holden stated Buffalo Rapids Dist 1 surveyed the other boards and only Huntley Project was using the 1 vote 1 acre portion of the statute. I would hope we determine if there truly is a problem for a majority of districts.

Also at the Senate hearing on 2-12-2013. Mr. Holden stated Buffalo Rapids had received opinions from an attorney that the "Current Law is Lengthy, with undefined definitions and terms, for future reference shouldn't the committee identify those items.

As a committee if you choose to fix any problems with MCA 85-7-1710, take your time, get it done right.

Until recently the Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District has run elections for decades without any problems.

One final thought, what kind of moral judgement do we have in a democracy when we trade 1 person - 1 vote for 1 acre -1 vote.

What precedent do we set for school district, local governments, and all elections if we base our participation on property not people?

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee members, I am available for questions.

Multipliers: 26.5 3 0.5 1 4.5 2

Land Desc	School District	Section/ Lot	Township Block	Range	Acres	Jr Acres	Repay Acres	Operation/ Maintenance	Equip Res	System Rehab	RepayA	RepayB	Debt Reserve	Total
Unit 35	367	15.16	13N	53E	100.1	0	100.1	2,652.65	300.30	50.05	100.10	450.45	200.20	3,753.75
16-13-53 TR in NE4NW4 cont. 89	367	16	14N	54E	0	0.89	0	26.50	3.00	0.50	1.00	4.50	2.00	37.50
Unit 34	367	16	13N	53E	74.78	0	64.12	1,981.67	224.34	37.39	74.78	336.51	149.56	2,804.25
Pl U 38 N2S2	367	1	13N	53E	70.81	0	62.54	1,876.47	212.43	35.41	70.81	318.65	141.62	2,655.39
Unit 39	367	10	13N/15.16	53E	114.48	0	83.09	3,033.72	343.44	57.24	114.48	515.16	228.96	4,293.00
Unit 52	367	1	13N	53E	111.44	0	72.82	2,953.16	334.32	55.72	111.44	501.48	222.88	4,179.00
FARM UNIT #39. 5 IN SECS 14 & 15	367	14	13N	53E	30.95	17.55	12.93	1,285.25	145.50	24.25	48.50	218.25	97.00	1,818.75
U 47 Pl SE4N2	367	11.14	13N	53E	87.24	0	87.24	2,311.86	261.72	43.62	87.24	392.58	174.48	3,271.50
Tr B in U 36	367	15.16	13N	53E	169.97	0	132.52	4,504.21	509.91	84.99	169.97	764.87	339.94	6,373.89
Pl U 45 COS #711	367	11	13N	55E	4.85	0	4.85	128.52	14.55	2.42	4.85	21.83	9.70	181.87
Pl U 45 COS #711 & #712	367	11	13N	53E	83.75	0	66.67	2,219.38	251.25	41.88	83.75	376.88	167.50	3,140.64

RKD 2901

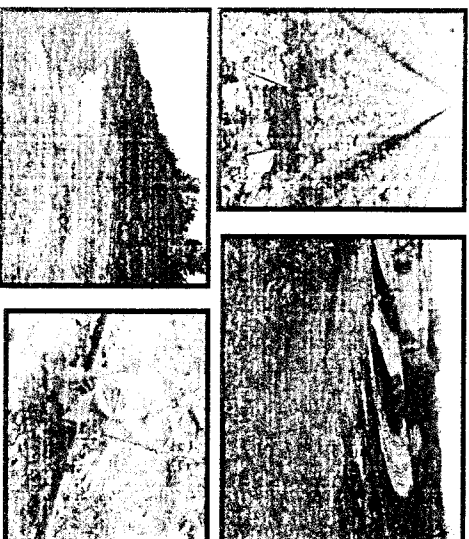
Landmark Land Company A ND LLC
PO Box 1881
Dickinson, ND 58602

What is the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)?

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality. As part of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), AWEP operates through contracts with producers to plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through partnership agreements.

Nationwide, the USDA has selected 63 projects, including California's Central Coast Irrigation and Nutrient Management initiative, to work with the NRCS toward mutual agricultural water enhancement goals.

AWEP is a non-regulatory program.
Participation is entirely voluntary and confidential.



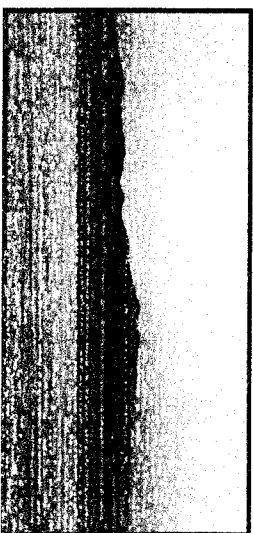
What is the Central Coast Irrigation and Nutrient Management AWEP?

Resource Conservation Districts located on California's Central Coast have partnered with several regional Technical Service Providers to work closely with the USDA NRCS in assisting you, the landowner or operator, with:

- Conservation Cover
- Residue Management
- Cover Crops
- Sediment Basins
- Field Borders
- Riparian Cover
- Filter Strips
- Grass Waterways
- Irrigation Water Conveyance
- Irrigation Storage Reservoirs
- Micro Irrigation Systems
- Sprinkler Irrigation Systems
- Irrigation Tailwater Recovery
- Irrigation Water Management
- Irrigation System Evaluations
- PAM
- Irrigation Land Leveling
- Precision Land Forming
- Land Smoothing
- Lined Waterways
- Mulching
- Pond Sealing or Lining
- Pumping Plants
- Irrigation Regulating Reservoirs
- Structure for Water Control
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Salinity and Sodic Management
- Underground Outlets
- Waste Treatment
- Water Harvesting Catchments

Why irrigation and nutrient management?

This project aims to conserve the California Central Coast's limited water supply and improve the quality of agricultural runoff. Project goals include restoring beneficial uses of local waterways and protecting unique marine and aquatic resources, such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Morro Bay National Estuary, and the Guadalupe Dunes. This project will assist willing growers in improving the efficiency of their operation, leading to water savings and water quality improvement. Additionally, this project aims to provide yield and cost benefits through efficient input management.



What makes this program unique?

This program is unique in that it addresses water quality and quantity issues on a regional scale, and it brings together a broad suite of partners in collaboration with landowners and operators. The selection of this partnership for AWEP funding reflects the strength and value of collaboration on the Central Coast.

Improving irrigation and nutrient efficiency on your farm can lead to cost savings. These practices benefit your bottom line, and the environment.

Join the StormSmart Community!

Join over a thousand other coastal decision makers on StormSmart Connect.

Recent Tweets

Connecticut community uses decision-support tools to guide post-Sandy reconstruction <http://t.co/W2WL961Kak>
1 DAY AGO

New webinar: Finding the Right Tool(s) for Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning <http://t.co/JvDsfcYC0n>
13 DAYS AGO

Follow [@stormsmart](https://twitter.com/stormsmart) on Twitter

StormSmart News

Community Rebuilds Wiser after Sandy
New Webinar on Economics of Climate Adaptation Measures
Training: Finding the Right Tool(s) for Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning
The Woes of Following the Rules of Recovery
NYC Releases DRAFT Urban Waterfront Adaptive Strategies
NOAA Adds New Jersey and Delaware to Sea Level Rise Viewer
Training and Technical Assistance Opportunity: Gulf Coast Resilient Communities Program

Stay Connected

Follow & connect with us to stay up to date on the latest news.

Recently Active Members



Copyright 2013 StormSmart Coasts.

